

Newport FD / Depoe Bay RFPD
Collaborative Agreements Committee Meeting Minutes
August 28, 2012

Co-Chairs: Chief Phil Paige, Newport FD
Chief Joshua Williams, Depoe Bay RFPD

Welcome – Why are we here? – Chief Paige

Chief Paige called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm and thanked Committee Members and visitors for their attendance. (A list of Committee Members and visitors in attendance is attached to these minutes.)

Chief Paige referred to the recent County-wide ESCI Report noting that a lot of recommendations had been proposed. He stated that Newport is looking at their goals both individually and regionally. He specifically mentioned Strategy F from the ESCI Report regarding departments working together throughout the county. He noted that some of these recommendations are already in process, i.e. county-wide training. Chief Paige continued by stating that the Fire Chiefs from Newport Fire (himself), Depoe Bay Fire (Chief Williams) and North Lincoln Fire (Chief Baker) have met and discussed Strategy F; Merger or Consolidation with Newport, Newport Rural Fire District, Depoe Bay Fire District, and North Lincoln Fire & Rescue. He further stated that consolidating these Districts would make one long skinny department and that the best idea might be to start with baby steps by looking at a collaborative effort between Newport and Depoe Bay. He made an analogy between the County Fire Districts and the Collaborative Effort by stating that Depoe Bay Fire and Newport Fire are the first ones on the dance floor and the other Districts are watching and haven't quite decided whether or not they want to join in. He further stated that was fine; they could join in at a later date, but Newport and Depoe Bay would like to begin studying the options and issues involved with more collaborative efforts between the two departments.

Chief Paige stated that the purpose of tonight's meeting is to get to know one another and to begin a discussion about working on goals for our individual departments and agreements between our departments. He noted that some of those are already beginning to take place (i.e. Auto Aid Agreement).

Introductions – Department Introductions

Chief Williams asked tonight's attendees to introduce themselves. Afterwards he led the group in an "Ice Breaker" by asking assigned groups (Chief Officers, Board Members, Volunteers and Staff) to name ten positive things about their individual departments. Each group then shared their lists. Chief Williams noted that we are all very proud of our individual Districts and that the goal of this collaborative effort is to keep the positives and change those things that can be made better.

Review of ESCI Report's "Strategy F" recommendation – Chief Williams

At this point a discussion was held regarding whether or not this Committee Meeting is subject to Public Meeting Laws. Chief Williams will research this and report back to the Committee.

Chief Williams then referred Committee Members to Strategy F from the ESCI Report located on page 276. He briefly summarized the recommendation noting that this collaboration would be between Depoe Bay Fire, North Lincoln Fire, Newport Rural and Newport Fire.

"Strategy G" possibilities – Chief Paige

Chief Paige stated that Strategy F looks too big to bite off right now. He continued that a good first step might be to look at a Strategy G-option – collaboration between Newport Fire and Depoe Bay Fire. He stated that this is a beginning to try to put together a system that works and is adaptable to add more departments if they choose to join in. Barbara Leff, Board Member – Depoe Bay Fire, noted that a component to this is the need for a fire station located between Depoe Bay's Otter Rock Station and Newport Fire. Chief Paige agreed and referenced back to the Auto Aid Agreement between the two departments.

Meeting formats/schedules, process, location(s) – Chief Williams

Chief Williams suggested that this committee meet once a month so progress does not stall. He stated that they will be more organized at the next meeting and that we will have ongoing agenda items with subcommittees appointed. A discussion was held and it was decided that the 4th Tuesday of each month would be good. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 25, 2012, 6:00 pm at the Depoe Bay Fire District's Gleneden Beach Station. Dinner will be provided. Chief Williams then stated that they are looking at ways to make communication easier between committee members. He noted that he will work with Eric Pena, Depoe Bay Fire, to set up a system. It was also decided that a News Release will be prepared prior to and following each committee meeting. Barbara Leff will prepare these. Each representative at this meeting was then asked to go back to their individual groups and share the information from this meeting and gain feedback for the September 25th meeting. Chief Paige suggested that he thought it might be a good idea for the Board Members and other group representatives (career, volunteer, staff) from each department to meet together, just to get to know each other.

Issue identification (Value, Capacity, Support) – Chief Paige

Chief Paige drew a Value, Capacity, Support Model on the blackboard noting that as we make decision for the future we need to keep the following in mind:

Value – Is it valuable? Does it further the mission of our organization and add value to the services we provide to our citizens?

Capacity – Can we do it? Do we have the financial and human resources, the expertise and skills needed to do it?

Support – Do our people, the public, our policy makers, etc. support it?

Chief Paige noted that this is one way to help us study the issues involved in a potential collaborative effort, and that usually, obstacles can be categorized in at least one of these areas.

Information gathering and representation – Chief Williams

Chief Williams asked for discussion. Jim Voetberg, Newport City Manager, stated that he believes this effort will be successful because it is a ground up process. A short discussion followed.

Chief Paige asked for a discussion on the format of meetings and how the group would like things run. The group consensus was that the format of this meeting was good and should be continued. A discussion followed noting that ESCI might be available for some of our meetings. It was also noted that the League of Oregon Cities and SDAO could be contacted for input. Chief Williams stated that he is hopeful the ESCI draft report on Strategy F will be available before the September meeting. He added that he will distribute it when the editing is complete.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Phyllis Palmer, Administrative Assistant – Depoe Bay RFPD

Chief Phil Paige

Date

Chief Joshua Williams

Date

Committee Members Attending:

Chief Phil Paige, NFD
Chief Joshua Williams, DBFD
Barbara Leff, Board – DBFD
Phyllis Palmer, DBFD
Chris Rampley, NFD
David Jensen, DBFD
Hank Walling, DBFD
Eric Pena, DBFD
Rob Pratt, NFD
Dick Beemer, Newport City Council
Brian Haggerty, NFD
Andy Parker, NFD
Gray Snipes, Board – DBFD
Jim Voetberg – Newport City Manager
Ron Beck, NFD

Visitors Attending:

Carol Smith, Board – NLF&R
Chief Don Baker – NLF&R
Chief Frankie Petrick, YRFPD & SLAA
Chief Derek Clawson, COCFRD
Ray Woodruff, Board - COCFRD